Speeding up of container movements

2111. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inordinate delay in handling containers at ports during the last few weeks has brought exports to a virtual standstill, inasmuch as exports worth Rs. 250 crores and imports goods worth Rs. 450 crores are reportedly stuck at various container depots and customs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the short term/long term steps taken to speed up container movements to protect and promote international trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The value of export and import consignments stuck up for past few weeks due to delay in handling of containers is not available. However, there was delay in handling of containers at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) and Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) due to container handling problems, heavy rain in Maharashtra and Gujarat and, breaches in Palghar-Vaitarana section of Western Railways.

(c) In order to speed up container movements following measures have been taken up:

(i) Two additional lines were operationalised temporarily for 10 days by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR);

(ii) Additional container handling equipments and rakes have been made available;

(iii) JNPT has taken in principle decision to take over Inland Container Depot operations on rail lines 6 and 8; and

(iv) CONCOR's proposal to handle ICD rakes designated for Nagpur and Hyderabad ICDs at their Dronagiri Node rail terminal has been accepted by JNPT and the same has been operationalised.